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BISHOP'S LETTER



To welcome in the new year of 2013, my wife Lily and I went out into Taipei City hoping to see the firework display that Taipei 101 has become famous for in recent years. Everywhere on the streets, Metro, hotels and restaurants there

were people, thousands and thousands of people, all with the same idea as us! In fact there were so many people that we couldn't see anything much and it was only once we got home and watched it replayed on TV that we really discovered what we had missed! I expect that those hoping to catch the first sunrise on New Year's

Day may have had the same experience as the famous sunrise spots were also so crowded. But for those who did see clearly the fireworks show or the sunrise, I am

sure that they experienced the joy and beauty of that special moment in time.

For some Christians, their faith is also an experience of one special moment in time. Their baptism or the celebration of Christmas brings them moments of great joy and beauty and those mo-



"SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN" WORKSHOP, DIOCESE OF TAIWAN, OCTOBER 2012

ments are indeed to be treasured, enjoyed and appreciated. Yet our Christian faith is so much more than just one moment in time. Our faith is a commitment throughout our whole lifetime, not just for



one moment! Christmas reminds us to trust and depend on Christ Jesus and to expect that the true light of Christ can shine on us and through us to expel all evil and injustice in our lives. Our faith needs to be deeper than just one moment in time; our faith needs to be deeply rooted in God's word, like a plant growing its roots deep into the soil. Once our faith has its roots deep into the soil of God's word, then we can trust in God and deeply know the mystery of the Gospel. With deep roots we can gain confidence and courage to proclaim the Good News to our friends and neighbors, to help them understand the mystery of our faith.

In 2013, the theme of the Diocese of Taiwan is 'Everyone sharing the Gospel'. A wise person

knows that sharing the Gospel needs a deeply-rooted faith, that we need action, to devote ourselves as living sacrifices to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength and with all our mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

So let us thank God for this past year 2012 and humbly ask Him to support and strengthen us on our faith journey ahead of us in 2013.

Bishop David J. H. Lai



*A tree planted
near running
water, that
yields its fruit
in due season,
and whose leaves
never fade*

News from our sister-diocese of Osaka

By Rev. Akira Iwaki, Dean, Kawaguchi Christ Church Cathedral, Osaka Diocese

This year will see the 90th anniversary of the Osaka Diocese, which was founded in 1923 as one of the first dioceses of NSKK besides the Tokyo Diocese. The first bishop of Osaka Diocese was Rt. Rev. Yasutaro Naide, the first Japanese to be consecrated to the episcopacy. The commemorative service is to be held on November 4, Monday, at Poole Gakuin High School Chapel.

On December 8, a new priest was ordained, he is Rev. George Masaki Hayashi, 60, who had long worked for YMCA and then studied at Kuwansei Gakuin University, Divinity School, and Bishop Williams's Theological Seminary. He was appointed as the curate at St. Paul's Church in Osaka.

This March, one candidate will take the examination for the diaconate and three deacons will take the examination for the priesthood. If God permits,

they will be ordained before summer. All the people of the diocese hope they will successfully pass the test and join the full ministry as members of the clergy.

Our diocese has invited some clergy and lay people to visit the Tohoku district, the area of northern Japan hardest hit by the Great Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. The people are still suffering from the results of the disaster and tens of thousands of people are living in fear of the possible exposure to radiation from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). The pilgrims will see the site affected by the Tsunami and talk with those who evacuated their home villages near NPP. (Needless to say, the affected area is too dangerous for us to approach.) We hope our two dioceses will pray for them together.

News from the Diocese of Taiwan

The Diocese of Taiwan is grateful to the Episcopal Church and the Church Pension Fund for organizing, leading and funding the training program workshop "Safeguarding God's Children" held in Taiwan from October 25-26, 2012.

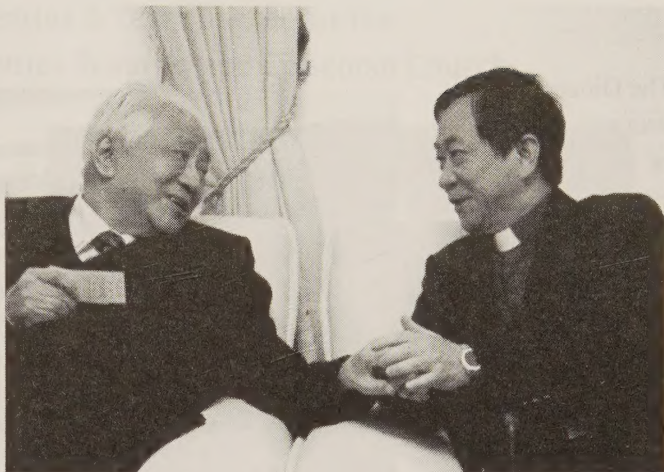
Rev. Roy Taylor, former CMS missionary in Taiwan visited us from October 27 to November 2, 2012 along with 2 members of his family. He spent time at St. James' Church, Taichung, Grace Church, Tainan and in Taipei staying at the diocesan hostel.

Bishop and Lily Lai participated in the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii from November 7-13, 2012.

The annual ecumenical Sports Day for all Taiwan churches was held at St. John's University on Saturday November 17, 2012, attended by about 600 people. Despite the continuous rain all day, a good time was had by all!

Bishop Lai participated in his second bishops' CREDO retreat at Healdsburg, California from November 26 to December 3.

Bishop K. H. Ting, Anglican bishop prior to China's Cultural Revolution and a pioneer in the



country's post-denominational era, died on November 22 in Nanjing, China aged 97. Bishop Lai attended his Memorial Service on December 8 in Nanjing. The photo above shows Bishop Lai and Bishop Ting at a meeting in November 2006.

On January 4, 2013, Joseph Ho Ray-En was ordained deacon at St. James' Church, Taichung (see photo below). Joseph is the older son of Rev. Philip Ho, vicar of St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung, and his wife Nancy, and the family were originally members of Advent Church. Joseph and his wife Angel serve at the Church of the Leading Star in Taiping, Taichung.



"Safeguarding God's Children" Workshop, October 25-26, 2012

Diocese of Taiwan

The Diocese of Taiwan was delighted to be able to host its first ever 'Safeguarding God's Children' Workshop for all our diocesan clergy, kindergarten principals and supervisors, Sunday School principals and helpers. The workshop took place in Living Water Hotel in Jiao-si, Yilan over 2 days, October 25-26, 2012.

The workshop was organized by Canon Peter Ng, Asia Pacific Officer for the Episcopal Church, led by Ms.

Sally Johnston and Ms. Bronwyn Clark Skov, and funded by the Church Pension Fund, represented by Rev. Bruce Woodcock; so we were honored to have all four of them, plus a friend Kay Kramer, to attend the workshop. Ms. Amy Wang from St. James' Church, Taichung, translated the power points and talks given throughout the workshop.

The workshop was preceded by a meeting for all the kindergarten principals and supervisors, and was followed by a retreat meeting for all the clergy. Over 50 of us participated in the workshop, most staying at the hotel, but some traveled in each day from our churches in Keelung.

The purpose of this 'Safeguarding God's Children' Workshop was the prevention of child sexual abuse in our churches, kindergartens and Sunday Schools. There was much sharing and discussion, all of it thought-provoking and challenging. It was extremely practical and action-packed! We were encouraged to apply the American experience to our own culture in Taiwan, and to make it relevant to our own particular situation.



WORKSHOP LEADERS AND ORGANIZERS, FROM LEFT: CANON PETER NG, REV. ELIZABETH WEI, MS. SALLY JOHNSTON, MS. BRONWYN CLARK SKOV, BISHOP DAVID LAI, MS. AMY WANG, REV. BRUCE WOODCOCK

The Diocese of Taiwan is deeply grateful to the Episcopal Church and the Church Pension Fund for providing this training program. We are also especially thankful to the 5 leaders who gave up so much of their time and energy to lead the workshop. They all spent 6-7 days in Taiwan, both preparing and leading the workshop. For Bronwyn Clark Skov, Program Officer for Lifelong Christian Formation and Youth at the Episcopal Church, this was her first visit to Taiwan, so she was also able to visit St. John's University and Advent Church before the workshop started. Sally Johnston, Vice President of Risk Management & Education at the Church Pension Group, had visited Taiwan earlier in the year to prepare for the workshop. After the workshop finished we were pleased to be able to take all 5 visitors to visit Trinity Church and St. Stephen's Mission, both in Keelung.

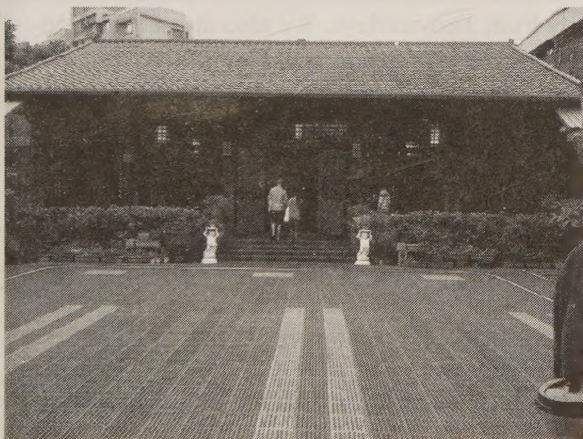
Thank you to everyone who participated and everyone who made this workshop possible; and to Almighty God for His many blessings!

Gratitude for new friends in the Diocese of Taiwan
By Bronwyn Clark Skov
Officer for Youth Ministries & Team Leader for the
Formation and Vocation Ministries Team for the Episcopal Church

I've spent a week in Taiwan meeting the faithful and gracious Episcopalians in mission and ministry in this far-flung diocese of our church.

The Rt. Rev. David Lai and his staff exceeded all of my expectations for hospitality, making sure that I was never lost or wanting in this land where I can't speak the language nor even begin to comprehend the Chinese characters that look more like art than an alphabet to these western eyes.

With Sally, Bruce, and Kay, my colleagues from Church Pension Group, and Peter, my colleagues on the DFMS Church Center staff in Asian Ministries, we engaged in Safeguarding God's Children train-



ing for the clergy, staff, and volunteers in teaching and formation ministries for the 18 congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan.

Sally and I were completely dependent upon the translation skills of our new friend Amy, and we did our best to help contextualize the training for this eastern culture. Our students were incredibly attentive, sincere, gracious, and helpful. The Taiwanese people care a great deal for their children and experienced the training as hopeful and helpful to their many ministries.

I have grown immeasurably as a Christian and a global citizen having made this trip. Although the



food and the culture are vastly different from my western and heavily Scandinavian influenced cultural context, the people are warm, gracious, encouraging, and profoundly faithful to the Gospel.

I have a newfound appreciation for tea. I am still not a big fan of raw fish. But my new friends helped me try everything that was new and rewarded me with a tender, juicy, New York Strip steak on the eve of my departure, with abundant gifts of tea.

My belly is full and my heart is overflowing with gratitude for my new friends in Christ. Many thanks to Bishop Lai and the people of Taiwan. I hope to return to learn more of your faithful ways in the world. Godspeed!



A Homecoming, by Roy W. Taylor

On Friday July 14, 1972 I crossed over a line into forbidden territory. My wife and I were in Hong Kong and we dared to visit a shop run by Mainland Chinese. The cold blast that hit us on entering was only air-conditioning, but it felt like a warning that we had acted in defiance of another kind of conditioning which the government in Taipei had imposed upon us. We would never have imagined that the day would come when we would fly between Beijing and Taipei and feel at home in both territories.

It was a kind invitation from Rev. Charles C. T. Chen and the further encouragement of Bishop David Lai that led me to make this journey. The main purpose was to reunite with old friends whom I had left behind in 1979 when returning to England. Since then I had made only two visits, in 1986 and 1990. When my son heard about this he expressed an eagerness to go with me to the land of his birth, and, of course, Judit wanted to come too. So we were a little team of three.

After an overnight stopover in Beijing and a long delay through fog, we arrived in Taiwan to be met by Rev. Philip Lin and taken to Taichung, where he serves as rector. From then onwards, all our programme was arranged by Charles. This even included breakfast. At one breakfast we met a formidable proprietress, and the conversation went something like this: "Coffee please." "We only have tea." "Hot tea, then." "We only have cold." "Tea

ROY WITH BISHOP JOHN AND MRS. CHIEN



without sugar." "Our tea always has sugar."

Other meals were more positive. We met one time with the staff of the church; another time we ate with Bishop John and Mrs. Chien, who were old friends from Taiwan days. We also ate at a Cantonese restaurant with two generations of the Chen family. All through our trip we enjoyed generous hospitality.

On Sunday at St. James, I was able to preach at both the English and the Chinese services. The first was quite international, including an Indian family. I was delighted to make the acquaintance of the current generation of worshippers at both services.

We also made a trip to Sun Moon Lake, a place where my wife had many pleasant holidays before

we met. Unfortunately, Chris had an attack of 'Taiwan Tummy'. This spoiled what should have been an enjoyable outing. We noticed how popular the place was with tourists from Mainland China.

One was very much aware of the kindergarten and its activities. I was delighted to hear that money raised by St. James' Church has been used to build 12 churches in the Philippines.



VISIT TO GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN WITH REV. SAM CHENG AND CLERGY

ROY WITH RETIRED CLERGY AND
SPOUSES, PLUS BISHOP AND LILY LAI IN
EPIPHANY CHAPEL



There was opportunity to visit both old and new buildings of the Changhua Christian Hospital, where both my sons were born. The chaplain, Frank, was very helpful and informative. Such was the influence of the Landsborough family that even the taxi drivers gave unsolicited comments on the contribution they had made.

Our next stop was Tainan, where we had lived as a family for several years. Rev. Sam Cheng and his wife were most kind, even though we had never met before. We met up with the local clergy group, most of whom were too young to have known us, but it was good to observe their fresh energy.

We had opportunity to visit St. Michael's House. Sadly, the house in which we had lived had suffered demolition, and it was hard for Chris, standing on the grass, to conceive that there had once been a building there that we called home. The student hostel, which I had designed, and which we had opened with great celebration, now looked neglected, and it was quite likely that this too would be removed to make way for something else. This was the saddest part of our trip. We also visited the seminary, sat in the chapel for a while, and passed the girls' dormitory where Eileen had worked before our marriage. Courting in such circumstances was

rather like life in a goldfish bowl.

Sam was kind enough to take us round the various places of historic interest, dating back to the time when Tainan was the capital. Whereas in Taichung there had been a lot of new building, there had been a deliberate attempt to preserve the antiquity of this city. Chris and Judit were delighted on this occasion to taste real Taiwanese food.

The high speed train took us to Taipei in just a fraction of the time that the much vaunted 'Ju-Guang-Hau' train would have taken. Instead of a boy with



ROY WITH PROF. HERBERT AND MRS. MA

a kettle, we had a girl who pushed a refreshment trolley, and the stewardesses who used to enjoy the company of our two small boys were no longer in evidence.

On arrival at the diocesan centre, we were

entertained by Bishop Lai to a Chinese tea ceremony. (This encouraged us later, in Beijing, to visit a Tea Market and buy tea sets of our own.)

The next morning I had a great talk with a retired PE professor, who had been a very good friend of mine. This was followed by a dinner with retired clergy from all over the island. I was delighted to be in their company again. It was particularly fascinating to catch up with Rev. Michael Liou, who was also a good friend from Tainan days. This meal was followed by worship in Epiphany Chapel and photographs (see previous page).

That afternoon there was a visit to St. John's University, which in my day was a humble technical college. I remembered standing at the graveside of Bishop Wong. Now the grave is incorporated in the fine chapel, which I had seen before; but the rest of the complex has been rebuilt to match the institution's more elevated status. Then it was back to Taipei for yet another meal, this time in the presence of the venerable Professor Herbert Ma, who, despite his frail body, retained a sharp mind.

The next morning, before our departure, I had a couple of games of table tennis with Bishop David. When we used to play tennis together, my recollection is that we were well matched, but at this new sport I got a thrashing.

Beijing was very different. For one thing, we were there during an unusually cold spell, with two days of snow and rain, which somewhat curtailed our activities. We stayed in a converted family dwelling in a hutong, where they had a mynah bird that

VISIT TO ADVENT CHURCH AND ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY



said 'ni hau' in its best Beijing accent.

We had to pass through security in order to gain entrance to Tiananmen Square. Sometimes the scene of political events, it was now simply a place for

people to take photographs of each other. They did not seem to mind the cold and the rain. We would have visited the Forbidden City (my fifth visit) but the weather militated against this.

A friend had suggested I worship at Gangwashi Church. To my surprise I found it was just round the corner from where we were staying. They have four hour-long services on a Sunday. The service I attended was Communion. Translation on headphones was available for foreigners. I refused the offer, but later was sorry I had done so, as the preacher spoke very quickly and I could not follow it very well. It was good to see a packed church with many young people.

There was plenty of opportunity for me to chat with taxi drivers and shop assistants during our stay. And even to share something of my faith. I would have been cautious about this in the past, but now there was a more relaxed atmosphere. One assistant even told me that her mother went to church.

The last day was sunny, and we were able to visit the Temple of Heaven and Beihai Park, where many Chinese also went for leisure, finishing off at a shopping street in another hutong area and in a local restaurant. To celebrate my 75th birthday in such a setting was a privilege.

Throughout these days I felt I had been in my 'second home'. All too soon I was deposited on the other side of the world to take up the threads of my normal life in Northern Ireland.

Diocese of Taiwan Family Retreat at Da-Syue-Shan National Forest Park, Taichung

By Andrew Chung-Ping Chang

The 2012 Diocesan Family Retreat was sponsored by the Senior Citizens Fellowship and the Episcopal Church Women of the Tai-

wan Diocese and was held from November 4 to 6, 2012 at Dasyueshan (大雪山) National Forest Park in Central Taiwan. Inspired by the Rev. Peyton Craighill's suggestions at the Member Mission Workshops he held in Taiwan last May and encouraged by Bishop Lai's recent publication, "Grace and Nature", a few lay leaders of the church talked with Bishop Lai last September about a possible family retreat for the whole Diocese and got his full support for sponsoring a spiritual journey of faith for clergies and members of the church to one of the most beautiful forest parks in Taiwan.

Thanks to Mr. Yun Heng Ti, a senior member of St. Paul's Church in Kaohsiung, who is also a member of the Diocesan Executive Committee, the detailed arrangements of the program and activities, hotel accommodation, meals and travel were all well



The night is far spent the day draws nigh

taken care of by him. Mr. Ti was instrumental in the planning of the retreat and in support of all the logistics of the big

event. Without him, a successful family retreat wouldn't have been possible.

The theme of the 2012 Diocesan Family Retreat was taken from John 10:10. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." It was hoped that the three-day spiritual experience in the National Forest Park not only would help all the 44 participants of the retreat appreciate God's creation of the beauty of nature, remember God's grace and blessings in our lives, but also remind each of us of our mission as Christians at home, at work, during our leisure as well, so that we will have a life to the full.

Besides two talks on spiritual and Bible subjects given by Rev. Charles Chen and Rev. Lennon Chang, Dr. S. G. Wong, a specialist on aging from Taichung Veteran General Hospital, was invited to



GROUP PHOTO AT THE DASYUESHAN VISITOR CENTER



give a lecture on health after retirement. Suggestions and recommendations from both the spiritual talks and the lecture were found very useful to each of us attending the sessions. The participants also had plenty of time climbing the trails, finding the giant redwood trees, hiking to the mountain top of 2,600 meters, finding a high mountain lake, and watching birds of various species. Although we were not able to see the sunrise in the morning, we did gather on top of the visitor center to watch the beautiful sunset from the high mountains. As we observed the sublime sceneries and wonders in nature, we couldn't help but think in awe and reverence of God's almighty creation, and think of us, human beings, in humility and in all smallness.



Most important of all was that all participants from different churches in the retreat had an evening to get together for more than getting to know one another, sharing our missions and visions of the church, and indeed, talking about how to live the



gospel in each of our daily lives. As we departed for home, each and every one of us, refreshed and revived in our faith, determined in carrying our mission back into the world, indeed found our meaning and purpose in life as Christians in support of others living and sharing the gospel, and to do God's work in our communities.

Well Worth the Waiting! St. Gregory's Church Consecration, Manila, Philippines

November 10, 2012

By Catherine Lee

Never in a million years did we ever expect that the best would be the last! Those were exactly our thoughts as we arrived on the outskirts of Manila for the consecration of St. Gregory's Church in Cogeo, Antipolo (Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines, EDCP) on Saturday November 10, 2012! We had been looking forward to this day for months, yet we never expected anything as beautiful as this! There in front of us was the most imaginatively-designed, soundly-constructed and creatively-furnished church of St. Gregory. What a testimony to the glory of God!

St. Gregory's Church lies on a tiny corner-plot of land, sandwiched between houses and a garage, next to a big mango tree and surrounded by banana trees, with chickens running around at the back and with people everywhere. Faced with the restrictions of the size and shape of the plot, the building was designed accordingly, with the church on the ground floor and a meeting room above, a toilet at the back and an open area at the front. All the church furnishings have been generously donated and/or



made by the church members themselves. The inside walls of the church are white, which makes the room appear larger and brighter, while many of the fixtures and decorations are deep yellow or gold in color, with a gold-colored lectern, gold-colored font, and the new church Bibles all gold-gilded! Praise the Lord indeed!

This is the 12th and final church constructed with money raised by St. James' Church, Taichung, Taiwan; our first church in EDCP, Christ the King was constructed in Sandeline, Nueva Ecija way back in 1999. Our cooperation with EDCP started at least 17 years ago, inspired by a letter written by the then EDCP bishop, Bishop Manuel Lumpias (bishop 1976-1995) to our then Bishop of Taiwan, Bishop John C. T. Chien in which he shared about churches in his diocese meeting under mango trees for worship. The then Rector of St. James' Church (now Rector Emeritus), Rev. Charles C. T. Chen inspired his congregation to give, and so the money was raised to

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ARCHITECT MARC BAW, REV. CHARLES C. T. CHEN, REV. NED MAPANGDOL, BISHOP DIXIE TACLOBAO, REV. PHILIP LIN, MS. HSU HUI-LAN, REV. JULIET TACLOBAO, CATHERINE LEE, REV. JAIME UY



construct a church. As it turned out, that one church, Christ the King, was just the beginning. Now here we are in 2012, with the consecration of our 12th and final church!

This visit to the Philippines was extra-special in so many ways. A total of 20 people from St. James' Church have now visited EDCP over the years; for Charles and me it was our 5th visit to the EDCP, but for Rev. Philip Lin, the new rector of St. James and

for our St. James' Church member, Mrs. Hsu Hui-Lan, this was their first visit.

Mrs. Hsu Hui-Lan is a talented and successful interior designer and a fine artist, whose husband, Mr. Yang Song-Hui 楊頌輝 (an architect originally from Hong Kong, whose family are devoted members of the Hong Kong Anglican Church, and whose father is a retired principal of an Anglican Primary School) tragically died in a fire in their high-rise office building in 2003 at the young age of 34, leaving Hui-Lan with 2 very young sons. The Chinese characters for Song-Hui 頌輝 are the same ones used for the translation of the name 'Gregory'. So for Hui-Lan, this was an opportunity to build a church in memory of her husband, and the consecration was truly a dream come true. It was also the first time that any of our major donors had come with us to EDCP to see for themselves the churches they had helped to bring to reality.



AFTER THE CONSECRATION SERVICE AT ST. GREGORY'S

The consecration service was led by Bishop Dixie Taclobao and attended by clergy and seminari-

The granite plaque on the back wall of St Gregory's Church was designed by Mrs. Hsu Hui-Lan as follows:

頌輝堂

是個充滿愛的教堂

感恩在世間的相遇

如風輕拂你我～

美好人生～延續愛的真諦

This is a church full of love

We are thankful for knowing each other

As blown by a light breeze, you and me～

The beauty of life～carrying on the truth of love

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH

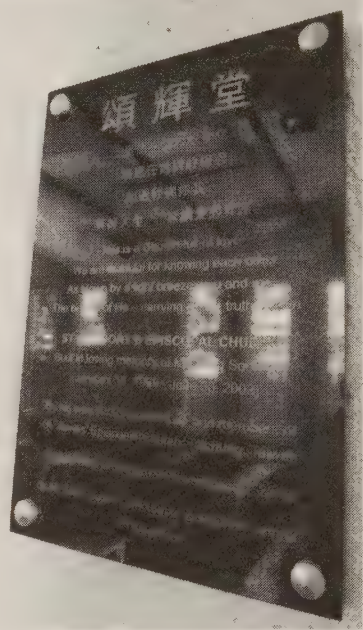
Built in loving memory of Mr. Yang Song-Hui

(January 13, 1969 - June 30, 2003)

by his wife, Mrs. Hsu Hui-Lan and members of St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung, Taiwan

Consecrated on Saturday November 10, 2012

by Rt. Rev. Dixie Taclobao, Bishop of Central Philippines



ans, plus lots of local people (mostly from the indigenous Igorot community who have moved to Manila from the northern mountain provinces). The congregation is usually about 25-30 people, but on this occasion over 100 people had gathered, with many of the ladies dressed in their traditional Igorot skirts. Also during the service, Bishop Dixie consecrated the gift of Bibles that were donated by the parents of Mr. Yang Song-Hui, in memory of their son. We were particularly moved to see Bishop Lumpias, now aged 82, in the congregation. After

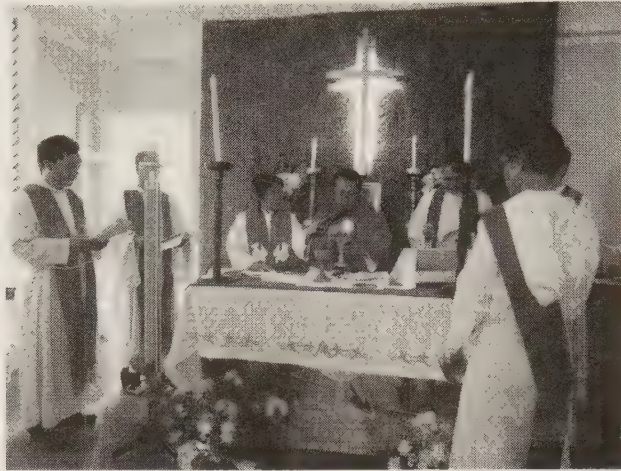
all, he was there right at the beginning, and now he had come at the completion; in fact he joked that of all the letters that he wrote during his time as bishop, that letter he wrote to Bishop John Chien was definitely the best one!

Also at the consecration service was the young architect, Mac, who gives his services free to the diocese, and we were delighted to see his dedication and devotion to the church, as always. He has designed and built many of our 12 churches, and he shared with us of the challenges of designing a church on such a small and narrow plot of land. His success this time is even more remarkable, the church is a particularly stunning building!

St. Gregory's had originally started as a small community worshipping under a mango tree, with their first service on March 13, 1997; and as the feast day of St. Gregory is March 12, the church community voted St. Gregory as their patron. They then moved to a church member's garage, then to a community church. The community church building was shared with different denominations but was less than ideal. In 2005 we had visited St. Gregory's along with Bishop Dixie, and on that visit we saw for ourselves the terrible state of the church building. On our second visit in 2008, we saw the plot of land bought by the diocese under Bishop Benjamin



BISHOP LUMPIAS, REV. CHARLES C. T. CHEN AND REV. PHILIP LIN AT ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH, WITH THE PLAQUE AND FONT IN THE BACKGROUND



Botengan (bishop 1996-2003), and had coffee with the church leaders in the house that is now right next door to the new church. On that visit, we were moved to promise that our #9 church would be for them. However once they started to build on the plot of land that the diocese thought they owned, several local people suddenly appeared claiming the land was theirs, and that they had the title deeds to prove it. Construction therefore terminated, and the case was never resolved.

After a period of reflection, it was decided to redirect the rest of the money originally intended for St. Gregory's Church to build instead 2 wooden churches in Mindoro for the indigenous people there. Those churches are known as Epiphany Church and Ascension Church, and they were followed by Grace Church in Palawan in 2010. At that point, we thought our project was over; and so followed a Thanksgiving Service in February 2010,

which was also attended by our bishop, Bishop David Lai and his wife Lily.

Rev. Charles Chen could not rest however! As he said in his message to the congregation at St. Gregory's on the day of the consecration, one day 2 years ago while he and his wife were visiting their daughter in Dallas, Texas, he woke up with a heavy heart and a great burden on his mind! That burden was to complete his responsibility and to fulfill his promise to the people of St. Gregory's and to build them a church. On his return to Taiwan, he asked Rev. Philip Lin to help him and together they went to visit Mrs. Hsu Hui-Lan to ask her if she would like to be part of this project. He promised that if she could raise one-third of the money, he would look for other donors to raise the remaining two-thirds. So with her agreement to go ahead, 2 other donors were found to enable St. James' Church to raise the money to buy a new plot of land nearby, and to fund the construction of a brand new St. Gregory's Church. Hui-Lan herself spent many late nights over several months painting pictures that she sold at a highly successful art exhibition at St. James' Church last April, and so she raised the money to pay for her one-third of the total cost of the construction of St. Gregory's Church.

It is a wonderful testimony to the moving of the Holy Spirit, to the faithful witness of God's people, and to this partnership in mission between EDCP and St. James' Church, Taiwan. Today we can even thank God for the 4-year delay, because in the process it meant that 2 wooden churches in Mindoro





were also built, thus bringing our total to 12!

The consecration of St. Gregory's Church was the highlight and the main purpose of our visit to the Philippines this time. But we also did much more! On our arrival on Friday November 9, we were taken on a walkabout around Cathedral Heights in Quezon City, that houses all the Episcopal Church institutions including St. Mary's and St. John's Cathedral, St. Andrew's Seminary and the provincial office; and we also passed by St Luke's Medical Center, and Trinity University of Asia. In the evening, the diocese hosted a wonderful welcome party in our honor, attended by Bishop Lumpias and many of the clergy in charge of churches built by St. James, including Rev. Sherwyn Lingaling, who was originally in charge of Christ the King Church in 1998 when it was built; now he is in charge of Epiphany Church in Mindoro.

In the evening of Saturday November 10 after the consecration service, we had the honor of hosting a meal for Bishop Dixie and diocesan staff at a renowned Chinese restaurant in Manila. It was an honor to be able to thank the diocesan staff for giving us so much of their time and energy to take such good care of us during our visit.



On all our previous visits to the Philippines, we have actually never been there on a Sunday, so the following day, Sunday November 11, was a great opportunity for us to attend a church service.

Bishop Dixie's wife, Rev. Juliet Taclobao is the priest in charge of Holy Spirit Church in Signal Village, Taguig City, to the south of Manila and that day was their annual fiesta to celebrate 28 years since their foundation. We were invited to come along too, and what a day it was! The celebrations started with a parade around the village, then a service which included a confirmation of 5 children. After the service there was dancing and a whole program of performances by the Holy Spirit School, the ladies groups, the youth; even we joined in!

That evening, Bishop Dixie and the diocesan staff treated us to a special farewell dinner in Barbara's Restaurant, located in Intramuros, the historic heart



of Manila. After the meal there was a traditional Filipino dancing show which was a wonderful end to an amazing weekend. We were invited to join in with the dancing once again! After the show, Bishop Dixie presented us with very generous and bountiful gifts, Charles and Philip received tradi-

tional woven Filipino stoles, while Hui-Lan and I were given the most beautiful traditional woven fabrics as mementoes of our visit.

We thank God for the completion and fulfillment of this 14-year partnership in mission. May Almighty God bless each one of the 12 churches, their clergy and their con-

gregations, their ministry and mission. We also thank God for St. James' Church; and may God also bless our clergy and congregation, our ministry and mission, to His glory!

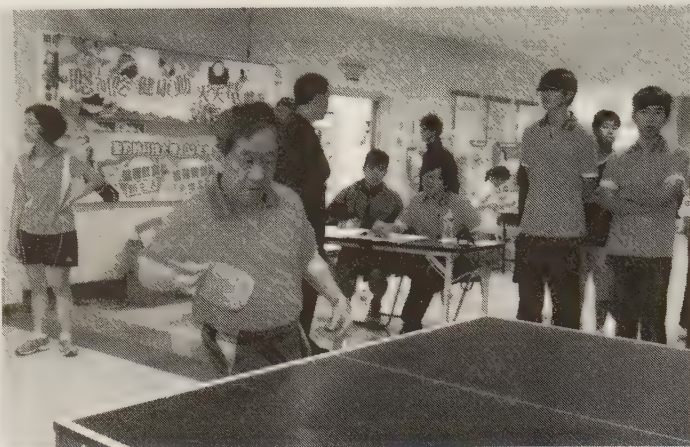
Taiwan Churches Together: Christian Sports Games November 17, 2012

Saturday November 17, 2012 was the annual ecumenical Sports Day organized by the National Council of Churches of Taiwan (NCCT), and this year hosted by St. John's University. Despite heavy rain all day and therefore a last-minute change of program to fit in with the weather, a great day was had by all! A total of about 600 people took part, as participants in the sports, as stewards or helpers, or as cheerleaders. Bishop Lai and the organizing team opened the games with prayers, and closed it with a blessing.

There are 16 churches or Christian organizations who are members of NCCT, and 7 of these participated in the Sports Day as follows: Methodists, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, YMCA, Mackay Memorial Hospital, plus the Garden of Hope Foundation who sold homemade chocolates, cookies, bread and desserts for us all to enjoy.

Due to the weather, nearly all the activities were held inside with basketball, table tennis, tug-of-war, 3-legged race, relay races and ball games of various kinds. It lasted all day and lunchboxes were provided for everyone.

Our group from the Episcopal Church was possibly the largest there with teams from all our churches in northern and central Taiwan. The furthest traveled were the coach load from St. James' Church and the



BISHOP LAI PLAYS TABLE TENNIS ABOVE, REV. PETER CHEN AND REV. ELIZABETH WEI JOIN IN THE 3-LEGGED RACE BELOW!



WHAT WE LACKED IN STRENGTH, WE MADE UP FOR IN ENTHUSIASM! OUR EPISCOPAL TUG-OF-WAR TEAM, 10 MALES, 10 FEMALES.

Church of the Leading Star in Taichung who left early that morning at 6:00am but didn't arrive until after 10:00am! Large groups of youth and children came from our churches in Keelung, from Trinity Church and St. Stephen's Mission.

The Episcopal Church came #3 in the relay race, #2 in the women's basketball and #3 in the junior-high boys' basketball. The most exciting event was undoubtedly the Tug-of-War, even though, sad to say, our team came last! Actually the winning team was from Advent Church's nearby neighbors, the Presbyterian Bunun Church, who are well-known as being the strongest indigenous people in Taiwan! At the final prize-giving, in overall first place for the sports competition was the Presbyterian Church, second was the YMCA and third was the Methodist Church. The Episcopal Church received the prize for 'Jin-Shen' ('spirit') for energy, enthusiasm, cooperation, teamwork and overall character. While we may not excel at the sports themselves, we all took part with great enthusiasm and passion!

Altogether a wonderful day, and we thank God for the fellowship and friendship provided by this opportunity to share with other churches in Taiwan.

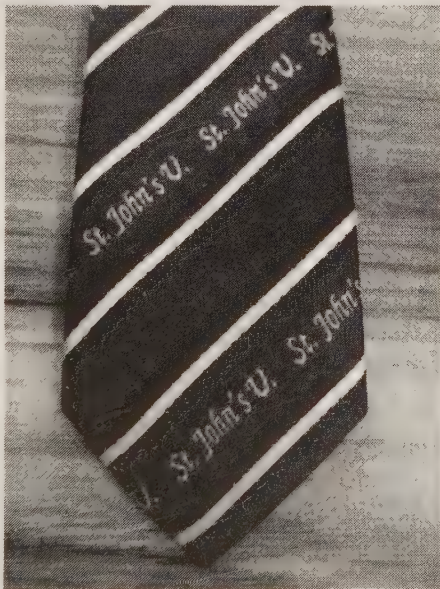
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師



On Sunday October 7, 2012 as part of the CCEA (Council of Churches of East Asia) Bishops' Meeting hosted by the Diocese of Taiwan, we were able to welcome Archbishop Paul Kwong, Rev. Kenneth Lau and Rev. Cindy Kwok, all from Hong Kong, and Bishop Ng Moon Hing and his wife, Siew Lan from West Malaysia to visit Advent Church and St. John's University for the day. After a meeting in the university, Archbishop Paul Kwong preached at the Advent Church service. During the afternoon the visitors were taken on a tour of Tamsui. It was a great honor for us to welcome such distinguished visitors to our church and university (see photo above)!

On Wednesday November 14, the St. John's University Chaplaincy was responsible for organizing the annual Coming-of-Age



Ceremony for all first-year students. This ceremony is fairly unique within Taiwan universities and received high marks from the Ministry of Education inspectors in last year's inspection. All 1,500 first-year students must attend with their form tutors, and all parents are invited too. This year for the first time, all students were given a newly-designed SJU tie to wear (see photo left), so everyone looked very smart! During the ceremony, each student drinks a small cup of wine, and as well as

speeches and songs, students get a chance to present flowers to all parents and to each form tutor (see photo left). Bishop Lai was also in attendance for the blessing of the wine and for the final blessing.

Every Advent, St. John's University Chaplaincy organizes a host of activi-



ties for staff and students. This year's fundraising and Christmas Bazaar in cooperation with Advent Church was in aid of St Teresa's Church in Wanhua, Taipei and their important ministry among disadvantaged children and elderly people in the area, led by Fr. Marcel Goffart and his team. A total of NT\$ 260,000 was raised, praise the Lord!

Also during Advent, Chaplain Rev. Lennon Chang and a group from the chaplaincy visit every office and department once a week for the 4 weeks of Advent to light a candle on the Advent wreath and to share prayers and songs with everyone (see photo below). This is very meaningful and much-anticipated event each year.



The SJU student fellowship group plan and organize a large evangelistic event once a semester, and this semester's event took place on Tuesday December 18 on the theme of Transformation. For weeks and weeks everyone was busy preparing, practicing and rehearsing the music, drama, games and sharing times. All credit to the students for the wonderful event that they produced (see photo top right), which was backed up with much prayer and encouragement from the student team and the chaplaincy staff. The same show was repeated for the Advent Church Children's Christmas Party on December 23, and also for a performance at our neighboring junior-high school on December 28.

We are delighted that at the Christmas Eve service at Advent Church, 3 of the 7 people bap-



tized were students from St. John's University, including 2 who are exchange students from Mainland China. Please do pray for them, and for all who study here.

On December 25, our Christmas Day service was held at Advent Church, attended by SJU President Chen Jean-Lien and many staff, students and church members. During the service, our annual presentation of NT\$ 100,000 was made by Rector, Rev. Lennon Chang on behalf of Advent Church to President Chen of St. John's University in thanksgiving to the university for help and support during this past year (see photo below). This help is mainly in the form of maintenance of the building and grounds, plus water and electric-ity supplies. After the service a delicious Christmas lunch was held for everyone.



ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章會吏



On the final weekend of the church year, Saturday November 24, Advent Church held a whole day retreat and meeting in preparation for the new church year, praying, discerning and sharing our vision for 2013. The retreat was held at the Benedictine Convent in Tamsui and attended by over 20 people, shown here in the above photo.

An ecumenical Christmas Concert Outreach was held at St. John's University on Saturday December 8, with 7 participating local churches including Advent Church. Largely organized by Bunun Indigenous Presbyterian Church with each church invited to sing or perform, it was the first time such an event has taken place and despite the torrential rain, all considered it a great success! The musical highlights were carols played on hand bells by Ms. Cheng. Over 500 people were in attendance. Half-way through, a visiting pastor was invited to preach a short sermon, followed by an invitation for non-Christians who wished to follow Christ to come for-

ward. 13 people went forward and prayed to accept Christ, and they were welcomed into local churches. Advent Church Choir performed 2 songs, and they also repeated their performance on December 15 at SanJhe Town Christmas Celebration and at Sunrise Community Christmas Celebration on December 22.

Advent celebrations, including the lighting of the Advent wreath, were held throughout December at the homes of church members scattered throughout the area. In the photo below, Advent Church Senior Warden Ms. Pen hosted one of the Advent celebrations in her home.



The Christmas Eve service at Advent Church at 8:00pm was also a baptism service for 7 people. Two of these were the great-grandchildren of our oldest church members, Tan Baba and Mama, who had returned from Seattle for a visit. Two of the



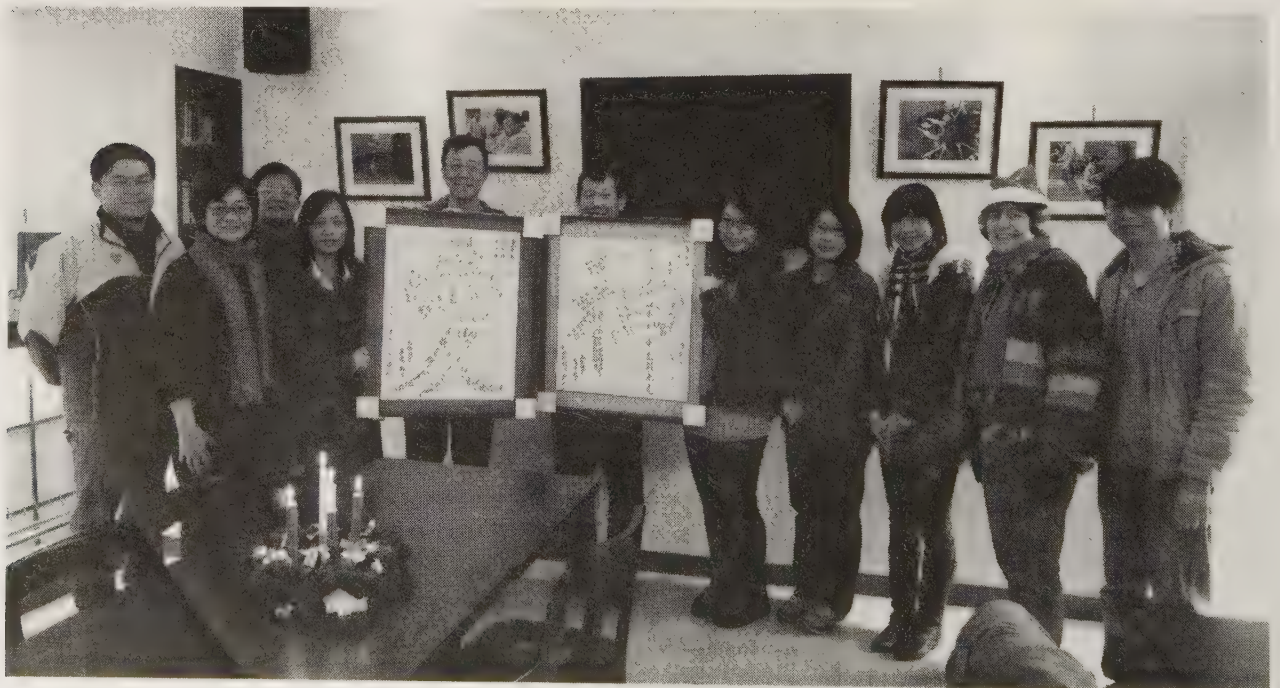


adults were students from Mainland China who are here as part of the exchange program for a semester or a year (see right photo with sponsors Andy and Charlotte Chang). One 6-year-old is a member of our Sunday School and asked to be baptized (see photo above). His parents, older brother and grandmother all came to the service too, though none of the rest of the family are Christians. Praise God for this wonderful service and a great celebration of Christmas!

On December 25, a group of us from Advent Church went to our neighboring junior-high school to share the good news of Christmas. The school kindly presented us with

the second of a pair of calligraphy pictures to grace the walls of our new Advent Church Center, once built. Last year, the school gave us a picture of the word 神 (God) using the words of Psalm 23, and this year they have presented us with 愛 (Love), using the words of 1 Corinthians 13 (see bottom photo below). We greatly value our warm relationship with the school, and look forward to further cooperation in 2013.

Regarding our plans for a new Advent Church Center, we are still waiting for the relevant building licenses and permissions to be obtained. Please do pray for speedy completion.



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker



Congratulations to the oldest member of our congregation, Mr. Lee, who turned 104 at the beginning of December! He still manages to come to church regularly, and up the stairs to the lunch afterwards on the second floor. Here he is in the above left photo with Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai. We were delighted that Bishop Lai could be with us on November 18 for a baptism and confirmation service along with Chung-Li Outreach Center. Those baptized and confirmed that day are shown here in the photo below. Also confirmed in the same service

were the 2 granddaughters of Mrs. Pan, Tim Pan's daughter and William Pan's daughter (pictured second and third from left in the photo below), congratulations to them both!

We are sorry to say goodbye to our senior warden, Tim Pan as he moves to Beijing, but pleased that he promises to be back once a month to visit his family and worship with us! In the above right photo, he is saying goodbye to Chao Mama. Mr. Richard Hu has taken his place as senior warden.

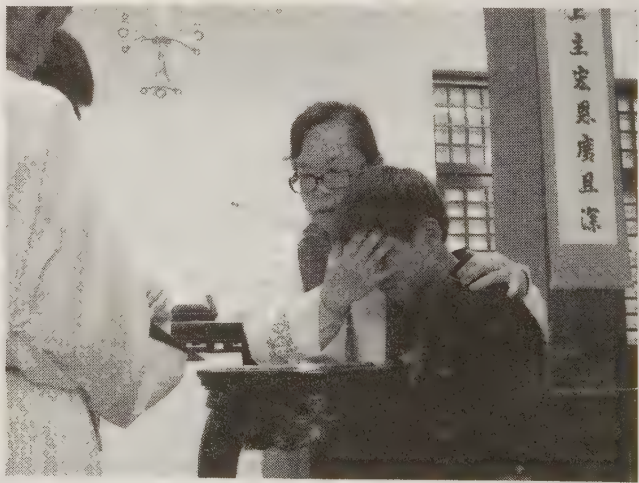


We continued our Advent tradition of visiting church family homes to light the Advent wreath and share Advent fellowship together. One of these was a joint Advent celebration with the English congregation at the home of Jake Hung and his wife Susan, and followed by delicious Thai food cooked by them both!



Our December 24, Christmas Eve service (see photos here) was blessed by welcoming 174 people to the service. It was truly a wonderful occasion, helped along by unseasonably warm fine weather. We praise God for His many blessings of this past year and look forward for 2013!

Chung-Li Outreach Center



A very exciting event took place on Sunday November 18 at Good Shepherd Church when Chung-Li Outreach Center combined with Good Shepherd for a Baptism and Confirmation Service. One baby from Good Shepherd, and 2 boys from Chung-Li were baptized (see above photos), and a total of 8 were confirmed, 4 from each church. Praise the Lord indeed! Following the service, the Chung-Li congregation were invited to the home of one of our former workers, next to Good Shepherd Church. Bishop and Lily Lai also came along, and we had a wonderful time sharing together about our faith

journey so far, as individuals and as a church community (see middle left photo, right page). For Mrs. Chang, it was the best birthday present she could possibly receive, that both her sons could be baptized! She herself was confirmed, along with the 2 other ladies (top photos right page), Ms. Wang and Ms. Lee, they effectively become our first 3 church members in Chung-Li. The bottom photo right page shows all the people gathered at Good Shepherd that day who have some special connection to the Chung-Li Outreach Center!



Our main highlight at Christmas was on Sunday December 23 when we held a special service in the



and the rest were parents of the children and local people. It was a great success! We had games and drama, shows and food. Santa Claus even came along and organized a lucky draw for us!



We were also very pleased to welcome Rev. Charles C. T. Chen to come and preach for us on the last Sunday of 2012. He came along with his

morning followed by our Christmas Party in the afternoon. The place was full of so many people from the community and a fun time was had by all! A total of 68 people attended from the church and local community. This included 4 children from our Sunday School, 28 children from the community, 11 teenagers, 6 mothers who made food, 9 leaders,



wife and extended family members gathered from Taichung and Taipei.



We do appreciate the help of many visiting friends and clergy. Thank God for the wonderful way that He has led us through 2012, and we look forward to a wonderful 2013 serving Him here in Chung-Li.

The Church of Shepherding Love

We understand that the spirit of shepherding love separates the Christian community from worldly associations, because it is given without conditions to everyone, especially to strangers who are beyond our walls, yet, who have stumbled into our midst.



"Xenos" in Greek can mean "stranger, guest, and host". A welcoming spirit of Christ trans-

In our elders Spiritual Formations English class we

have been studying Karen Armstrong's book, "Twelve Steps to A Compassionate Life" for more than six months. We elders have come to see that a compassionate life may be summarized in living a life of hospitality toward all. We practice seeing our family, neighbors and strangers as welcomed guests where ever we may meet.

Now we see that we do not need 12 steps to a compassionate life. We need only one hospitable step toward all people. It is a step forward. It is a step that extends to all, gracious words and deeds of hospitality and welcome. In that one step of hospitality there begins a cascade of movement that in specific ways relieves distress, weariness and brokenness to anyone. It is a step that creates a space of hospitality in the "between" the other and us. It is a step

that creates moments of "we" relationships.

A few weeks ago, one of our members in the elders' spiritual formations class presented me with a gift of her painting of a good shepherd. (see photo left page). For me it is a wonderful icon of "shepherding love". As you can see, the love is mutual and is vertical---shepherd to sheep and sheep to shepherd.

We realize that some times we are shepherds and some times we are sheep. We know too, that it becomes our special calling to offer this shepherding love as living icons horizontally to all the little ones who enter our oasis grounds.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師

We were delighted to welcome all the 18 bishops and 12 spouses from the CCEA Bishops' Meeting to visit us at St. Luke's on Saturday October 5. After refreshments and a short prayer service we presented them with special rose stone pendants, a gift of one of our church members.

Our first Alpha course has been successfully completed, one evening a week from September 1 to November 20. There were 3 leaders in attendance and 5 actually participating, one of whom was not a Christian. That person is now planning on being baptized during this coming year, praise God! We are planning that we will hold one Alpha course each semester.

On Tuesday evenings for 4 weeks from November 27 to December 18, we have been running a Mem-

ber Mission Course from 7:00-9:00pm, based on the program introduced to us by Rev. Peyton Craighill at his Member Mission Workshops last semester. 6 people attended and we hope to continue meeting as a small group in weeks to come.

At our church Christmas celebration we had 30 people in attendance, of whom



10 were new friends. We enjoyed food, singing, prayer and fellowship together. We hope that our new friends can come along regularly and get involved in our church community.

The theme of the Diocese of Taiwan this year 2013 is 'Everyone sharing the Gospel'. In keeping with this vision, we at St. Luke's are also praying and seeking God's will as to how we can put that vision into practice. Please do pray for us!

TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

We thank God that during this past semester we successfully completed a training program in outreach and evangelism for our adult church members. This has helped many shy and quiet people to share their faith in others. The program took place on Sunday afternoons and lasted for 13 weeks. The age group of the participants was from 25 to 55, and the group consisted of 13 people. It was a very practical course with training on how to share the Gospel followed by street evangelism in groups. We are excited that about 80% of the people contacted on the streets in this way made a decision to follow Christ, and we are now following these people up.

We are delighted that our follow-up for those interested in the Gospel has led to classes for baptism and for confirmation. On Christmas Eve, 10 people were baptized, and then on December 30, 6 people were confirmed on a visit by Bishop Lai.

As we have been praying and discerning God's will for our future we have become burdened to reach out with the Gospel to the N. E. coast of Taiwan, in



particular Yilan County, where there is no Episcopal Church as yet. The whole of the Northern deanery is supporting this outreach. To this end we have spent much time praying and discerning what God wants us to do. Currently once a month we are visiting Yilan County to pray and to look around. We are starting in Jiao-si, then Yilan City, then Luo-Dong. There are few Christians from among the local population in Yilan County, but with the opening of the new road tunnel in recent years,

Yilan County has become a popular place for Taipei people to buy a second home and to travel there for weekend visits. It is also popular with tourists visiting the hot spring resorts. In fact the diocese hosted the CCEA (Council of Churches of East Asia) Bishops' Meeting there last October. From Taipei City it is only 40 minutes by car through the tunnel to Jiao-si, and Friday evenings are particularly busy as people leave after work to spend the weekend there, and then travel back to Taipei on Sun-





people (see photo below). We invited someone from a Christian family Center to come and lead us in come teaching sessions for adults and separately for our youth. We also spent time praying for Jiao-si Town.

From January 28– February 1, we will be holding a 5-day camp for our youth, also in Jiao-si. For 2 days, we will have a retreat, and then the remaining 2 days we will go out to find ways to serve the local people in whatever ways we can. At that time of year everyone is busy preparing for Chinese New Year, which means a major spring

clean of homes and offices, so we expect to find ways to help people in that ministry.

day afternoons. We hope to reach out to both these groups of people, the permanent full-time residents as well as the weekend residents.

Please join with us in praying for this new venture of faith!

We have held several of our church events in Yilan County. One of these was December 1-2, when we held our church family camp in Jiao-si for over 70



ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

At the beginning of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to report to you about our ministry in the last quarter of 2012. It was such a pleasant experience to meet guests from other dioceses last year.

We welcomed the Rt. Rev. Dongsin Park, the new Bishop of Pusan, South Korea, who visited us as part of the CCEA Bishops' Meeting in October. He gave a sermon in our Sunday Service on October 7 (see photo right).

Three of our teachers accompanied Rev. Julia Lin to attend the workshop "Safeguarding God's Children" which was led by Ms. Sally Johnson and Ms. Bronwyn Clark Skov of the



Episcopal Church. After the seminar, Sally, Bronwyn, Kay Kramer, Peter Ng and Bruce Woodcock, accompanied by Catherine Lee, visited us in Keelung. 30 children and 12 junior high school students met with them. In spite of the language difficulty, they really had a fun time (see photo left).



The 2012 highlight was at Christmas season, when there were a series of drama performances. As usual, our children presented their talents of singing and drama in the community activity center. This year, one special program added was a drama by older members. The name of the drama was "Two babies in the Manger" (see photo below).



We pray for the year of 2013 to be full of God's grace.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year!

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

On December 24, St John's Cathedral held a wonderful Christmas Eve Celebration. We also held a Christmas Sunday Celebration on December 30, after which we had a nice Christmas lunch for 170 people.

The new St John's Cathedral 'Young Professionals Fellowship' for ages 22 to 49 were pleased to have their first meeting on November 10.

On Saturday October 6, we were delighted to welcome all the spouses of the bishops attending the CCEA (Council of Churches of East Asia) Bishops' Meeting in Taiwan, to visit St. John's Cathedral, accompanied by Mrs. Lily Lai. Our senior warden Mrs. Marjorie Kuo organized a whole day of activities for the spouses in Taipei, including meals and sight-seeing (see photos on this page).



On Sunday October 7 we were also pleased to welcome the following CCEA bishops and spouses to attend our morning service as follows: Archbishop Bolly Lapok from Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia, Bishop Jason Selvaraj and his wife Daphne from West Malaysia, Bishop Alexander Wandag from Santiago, Philippines, Bishop Renato Abibico and his wife Patricia from Northern Luzon, Philippines, Bishop Michael Kwon from Daejeon, S. Korea, and Mr. Thomas Jun Kee and

his wife Maria from Seoul, S. Korea.

On November 4 we were delighted to welcome a total of 7 people for baptism at St John's Cathedral.



ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峯牧師

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師



On October 7, 2012, we had 3 honorable guests visiting St. James: the Rt. Rev. Dixie Taclobao, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines and his wife Juliet, and the Rt. Rev. Gregory Thompson, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Northern Territory, Australia. Bishop Dixie gave a sermon from Luke 10:2-16 at the English-and-Chinese combined service that Sunday (see photo above). This was followed by a sharing time with Bishop Dixie on the 6th floor as he shared photos and news about the 12 churches built by St. James in his diocese. From November 9 to 12, 2012, Rev. Charles Chen, Rev. Philip Lin, Ms. Hui-lan Hsu, and Ms. Catherine Lee visited the Diocese of Central Philippines for the consecration of St. Gregory's Church, the 12th and final church of this project.

From October 12 to 14, 2012, Rev. Philip Lin, Rev. Charles Chen, Ms. Mary Jo Chen, and Mr. Jerry Liang visited Hong Kong in order to attend an important ceremony held at St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong Diocese, on October 13. The important ceremony was the Installation of the Rev. Canon Matthias Clement Tze-Wo Der as Dean of St. John's Cathedral. The new dean had spent much of his

childhood in Taiwan, when his father, Rev. Edmund Der was priest here.

On Sunday, October 21, 2012, St. James' held a luncheon at a nearby restaurant, Dong Yue Hua, to show our respect and love to those who are aged 65 or older, as that Sunday was two days before the Chinese traditional Chong Yang Festival (or Double Ninth Festival, a traditional day for showing respect and love to senior people), which falls on the ninth day of the ninth month according the Chinese lunar calendar. The participants at the luncheon party included VIP's Bishop John and Mrs. Grace Chien, Rev. Peter Chen and Rev. Elizabeth Wei as well as members of St. James' Church.

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the Rev. Roy Taylor came and visited St. James together with his son and friend. Rev. Roy preached at the English-and-Chinese combined service the next day, on Sunday, October 28.

On November 3, a retreat was held at Sheng-Ai Shanzhuang, or Holy Love Mountain Villa, located in Taiping District, Taichung. 23 people joined the retreat, on the theme of 'Intercessory Prayer'.

During December there were many Christmas celebrations at St. James, including the kindergarten Christmas Party on Saturday December 8 and the Christmas Show hosted by the language center on the evening of Friday December 14.

ST. JAMES' SOCCER TEAM RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS!



service, which was followed by special fellowship hours and a Turkish meal together.

St. James' Community Service Center, currently led by Mr. Jerry Liang, had a "Certificate-Giving Ceremony plus Performances" on Saturday December 29. This took place at Taichung (Dadun) Culture

On the evening of December 22, St. James held a Christmas party especially for students from nearby junior-high schools. About 50 students came to join in. They participated in a meal, games, gift-drawing, and also the sharing of the Gospel. This Christmas party turned out to be a great success, and was hosted by about 25 voluntary workers.

Center, 10:00-12:00 noon. The program included Xiangsheng (typical Chinese talk show), Taiko Drumming (playing the Japanese drums), short films (showing what students in the various classes/teams had done in the past few months), painting exhibition, and the distribution of the certificates (to those who had completed the courses). Approximately 320 people (audience and performers) participated in this event.

On Sunday, December 23, we had a Christmas banquet for 170 people (see photo below). On Christmas Eve we had a Combined service.

On Friday January 4, we were delighted to host the ordination service for Deacon Joseph Ho. Congratulations Joseph!

On the evening of Christmas Day (December 25) the English-speaking congregation had a worship



ST. JAMES' ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONGREGATION

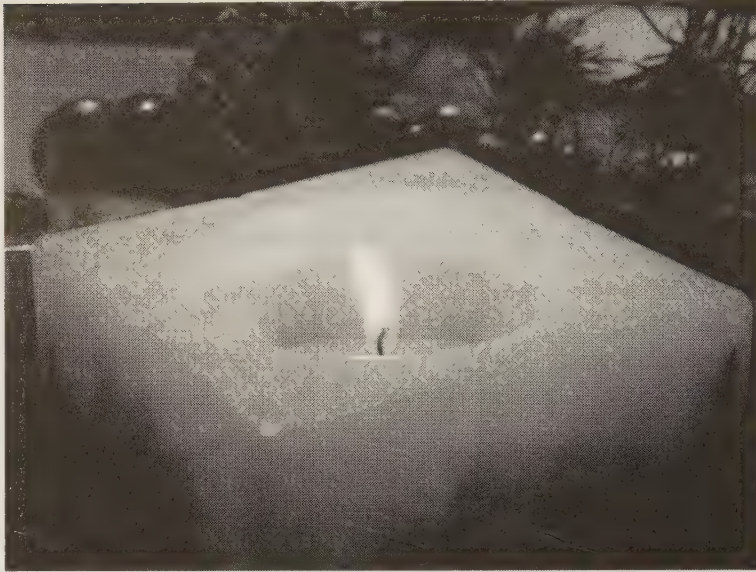
By Warren Sevander

'Don't Forget to Check the Rear-View Mirror'

Hello to everyone, from the English language congregation at St. James' Episcopal Church in Taiwan. I hope your Christmas holidays were especially enriched, celebrating the birth of our Lord.

At first glance, the title to this article probably seems to be a little bit strange. But no, it is not a mistake; your eyes are not playing tricks on you. And, no, I'm not writing an article about safe driving suggestions. I am actually drawing upon something that I learned and preached about on a Sunday during Advent: when John the Baptist was preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah, he did so by harkening back to a passage that was written by the prophet, Isaiah. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John was looking backwards, and reminding the people of that which had been written long ago so that they would be ready for that which was about to come. And, while I do not think it is a good thing to 'live in the past' or to always dwell upon past accomplishments, I do think it is important to recall and reflect upon from where it is that we have come so that we can have a sense of where it is that the Lord might be leading us...as individuals and as church congregations.

This year saw some



remarkable things happen at St. James, and the English language congregation is fortunate to have been, to varying degrees, a part of all of these things. At the end of February, St. James' was honored to host Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for part of her visit to the Dio-

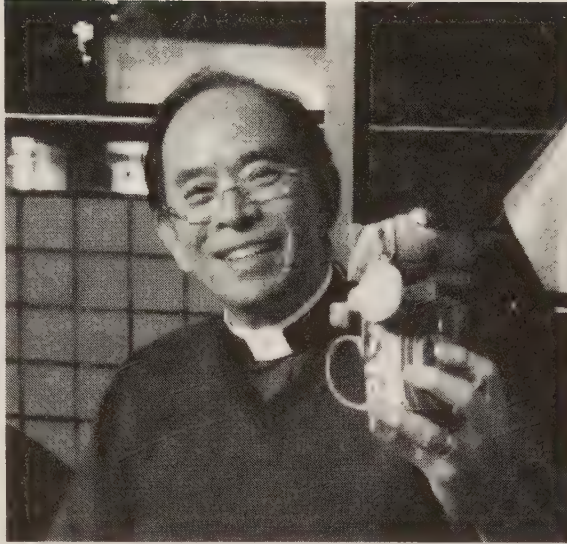
cese of Taiwan. Her visit to St. James was part of a 3-week visit to the Anglican Communion churches in Asia. In September, Rev. Phillip Lin was officially installed as St. James' new Rector. Rev. Lin is only the 2nd Rector in the history of St. James. His unique gifts and abilities in ministries to families and young people, as well as being instrumental in a vibrant small-group ministry for the Chinese language congregation makes him the ideal person to lead St. James' in the years to come as we all seek to follow in our Lord's footsteps. The English language congregation was more than excited to welcome visiting clergy from the United States, Rev. Vern Jones in April, and then a visit by our former Chaplain, Rev. Peyton Craighill. Those visits were very special and meaningful to the mem-

bers of our congregation.

Following in the footsteps of the ministries that have been established as part of the Chinese language congregation, the English language congregation has seen the birth of a small group ministry



MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH SERVICE



of its own. The persons who are part of that ministry meet weekly primarily to pray for the various ministries here at St. James. At present, this small group ministry meets on Sunday afternoons. And, since prior to that group's meeting time there already has been a considerable amount of time for after-Sunday worship service fellowship, the group can focus upon that calling which is upon the hearts of those persons who come: to pray.

The week between the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the First Sunday after Christmas was quite full indeed. The English language congregation joined with the Chinese language congregation for our traditional annual Christmas Eve service. Choirs from both congregations sang, with the Chinese language congregation choir singing a beautiful rendition of 'O Holy Night', and the English language congregation singing the very beautiful 'Ave Verum Corpus', by Mozart, in Latin. Rev. Charles Chen preached the sermon that night. The service concluded with a candlelight procession to the site of the crèche, the manger scene, on St. James' campus as we all sang 'Silent Night'. On Christmas, the English language congregation had a Holy Eucharist service at 5:00pm called 'A Service of Light'. Rev. David Chee preached the sermon, and there was the special added treat of his wife, Amy coming and playing the organ for all our service music that night. The service began by being lit only by candlelight, until at an appropriate time during the service when every light in the chapel was turned on to symbolize Jesus' birth: the Light of the World coming into the world. After the service we had a dinner together where we had opportunity to eat wonderful food, visit with great friends, share our own unique 'gifts' with which the Lord has blessed us with each other, sang more wonderful Christmas carols, and even sang the most entertaining and unusual version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' that I have ever heard.

During the closing weeks of 2012, it was announced at St. James that there would be opportunity to contribute for a special offering that was earmarked to aid in two special ministries active here in Taiwan. When I first heard of it and learned of the goal, I was more than happy to be a part of something as loving and generous as that. It brought me to the place of reconsidering much about how I feel about posses-

sions and about giving. And, I am more than thankful to have had the opportunity to think upon these things.

These are certainly wonderful experiences to look back upon, reflect upon, and say 'Thank-you, Lord' for giving us the opportunity to experience such wonderful and important things this year.

It was while writing this article that several other things came to mind. I wrote the 2nd paragraph of this article after I had written almost everything else. So, I am going to close this article by sharing those things which came to mind. I don't have the answers to the questions that I am posing. For myself, I think reflecting upon the questions can help all of us, especially those of us who are part of the English language congregation at St. James, to see the breadth and far-reaching arm of our Lord in how we go forward into the coming year:

What does what we have done tell us about ourselves? What does what we have done tell us about what and who we can be? What does what we have done encourage us to do more of in the future? What, that has seemed unthinkable or impossible, can we trust the Lord with? Who do we want to be? Where do we want to go? Where might the Lord be leading us? How can we best get there? And, Whose goals are we trying to accomplish?

Wishing you all a very blessed 2013, filled with the presence of our Lord.

THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

Mr. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩會吏



It's Christmas time! And my first time to spend Christmas at the Church of the Leading Star. That's so special, because the name of this church is part of the Christmas' story. Matthew 2:1-12, this is about the wise men and the star. They follow the star, and then they find Jesus Christ.

So did I, I taught the Champion course at two local

junior high schools this past semester. I wanted them to celebrate Christmas and to understand why Jesus came, and why the church is here. So I organized a Christmas party, called "Searching for the Star."

The students followed the story of Christmas: they told the message to each other of the annunciation; they found the hotels hidden that meant Joseph and Mary couldn't find a place to stay; they caught the small balls marked on a star, which meant the wise men followed the star to the King; they sang the song which drew out key words, that meant angels were singing to the shepherds. Finally they made up themselves like crib scenes, meaning Merry Christmas!

After the party, I shared another story about crib scenes. The party was very nice (see left photo above). Thanks to the youth from St. James. They always help us to organize nice parties.

At Epiphany, we hope the star is leading your way; may God be with you!

CHRISTMAS EVE



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師



Our women's group held a series of weekly activities titled 'Lord's Grace Handmade Soap' from October 14 to December 23 (see photo above). This time the women's group made six kinds of soap, and also made gifts for Christmas. We also invited mothers from our children's weekend club to join us. We were so happy to have this activity!



On Double Ninth Festival, September 9, our seniors group went to visit the R. C. Church in Dongshih Village, Chiayi County. As Father Chao prepared coffee for us, he also shared about his passion and interest in bird migration. After lunch we went to visit Oweko Wetland (see photo above), where we saw a lot of migratory birds, it was so beautiful. Our seniors group really enjoyed this tour.

Our youth group organized a youth worship band starting from October 14. It was a project full of God's grace, because we took only 2 months to raise the funds. For some of the fundraising the young people washed church members' cars every

Sunday after the church service. In total we raised NT\$ 99,000. We also thank our kindergarten, because they let us use the space to do this ministry.

The worship band has 8 young people and 3 adults (see photo below), and we had a special service on November 25. We also had a Christmas music celebration on December 23, it is the first time to show the results of our hard work!



At the Christmas music celebration on December 23, we had a lot of members showing their musical talent to all the people invited for this celebration. We had a Piano Duet, Jazz drum, accordion and flute performances to show everyone. It was so much fun and so joyful, and on that day almost 80 people came along!



On December 24 we had a potluck meal at 6:30pm, followed by the Christmas Eve service with Bishop Chien, at which we also had 2 adults accept baptism, praise the Lord (see photo above)!

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

At the beginning of October we were delighted to welcome Rev. Roy Taylor together with his son Chris and Judit to visit us at Grace Church and to catch up on old friends and familiar places. Many of the southern clergy gathered together to welcome him, including Rev. Samuel Liao, Rev. Luke Chen, Rev. Simon Tsou, Rev. Keith Lee and Rev. Sam Cheng. It was wonderful to recollect old memories and to hear stories of long ago! We took Roy and his family to visit St. Michael's House, his home and ministry while he was in Taiwan during the 70's. We also had a city tour including Cheng-Gung University, An-Ping Fort and lots of local restaurants and stalls to eat Tainan's local delicacies (see photo above of Roy with his family, and Rev. Sam Cheng and his family).



We have been honored to welcome 2 sets of visitors, one group from Tainan Theological College on October 21 and one group from Cheng-Gung Theological Seminary on December 2, to worship with us, to tour around our church and to understand about the Episcopal Church and to share with us (see photo below).



ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師



The top photo shows Mrs. Lee leading the children in singing Christmas songs during their Bible class on Christmas Day, December 25.

The bottom photo shows the principal of the kindergarten with Rev. Keith Lee and his wife along with the youngest class of the kindergarten.

Our children and their families offer Christmas gifts to St. Andrew's Mission, we gather them together,

On Dec. 15, a "Sweet Christmas" party was held at St. Andrew's Kindergarten. The children sang and danced along with Christmas carols and lots of songs. The kindergarten staff, along with Rev. Keith Lee and his wife performed a Nativity play showing the birth of Jesus. Many parents and children came along. Bishop Lai

also came to visit and made a Christmas speech to everyone. Then a Christmas buffet was held at noon after the performance, every family prepared a dish to share with the other families. When all the food was gathered on the big table, it was a luxuriant feast! The weather was so nice and everyone had a good time.

and distribute them to disadvantaged families around our community. The Mission also prepared a small bag of candy and a gratitude card as a thanksgiving gift, to give each child to express our thanks for their love and care.

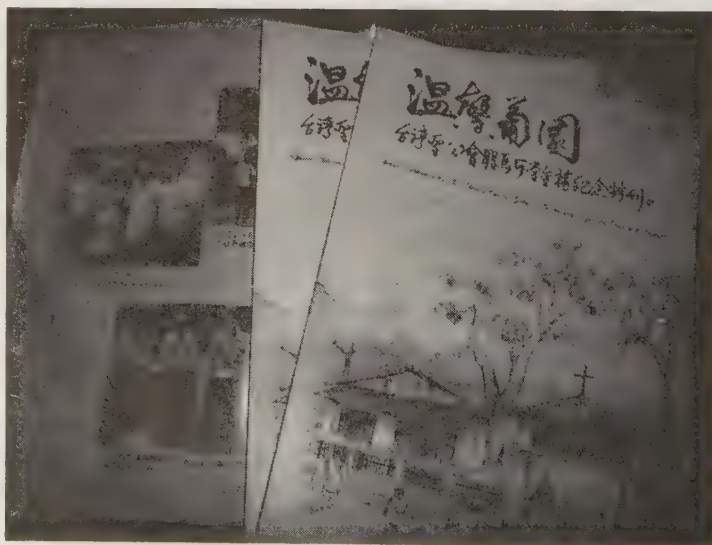
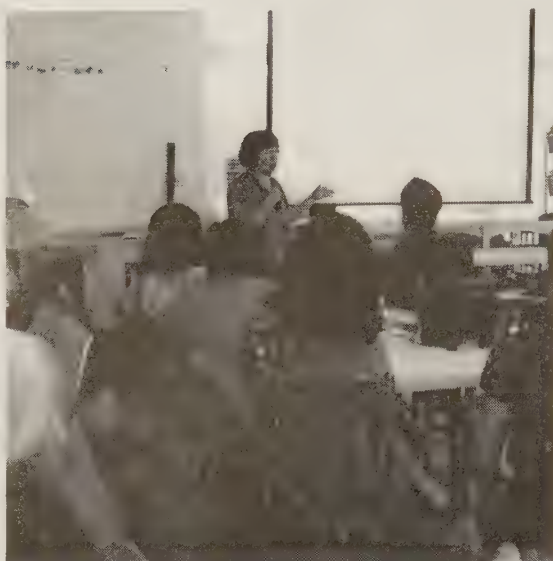


ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

The members of Southern Deanery met together having a wonderful time to listen to our church member Ms. Jude Chu's sharing of her experience visiting Mongolia, Turkey and Europe (see top photo right). Ms. Jude is a tour guide and has much experience in visiting many countries around the world. Today, November 4, about 35 people came from different churches in the southern deanery to St. Mark's Church after the Sunday Service. Ms. Chu shared of what she saw and experienced abroad, and thanked God that the creator has given different cultures in each area and different people, also different ways of living. For instance, she said that water is very valuable in Mongolia, which has made her treasure more the use of water after coming home. Through many beautiful pictures we saw God's wonderful creation. At the end we all read "a song of creation" together.

Rev. Samuel Liao visited us on October 28 (see middle photo right) and Rev. Charles C. T. Chen visited us on November 25, both were invited to preach and we had a wonderful time sharing together.



St. Mark's celebrated its Golden Anniversary, 50 years, during 2012 and in honor of this great occasion, a special book was published just before Christmas (see bottom photo left).

The book is indeed a meaningful Christmas gift for all of us, especially those of us committed to editing, correcting and article-writing. It contains articles from many past and present members of the church, plus clergy who have served here, and accounts of the history of the church. There are many photos spanning the whole history of the church. It is fun to see church members who have grown up in the church pictured in their younger days and fascinating to see photos of how the church has changed through the years!

Congratulations to St. Mark's Church on this Golden Anniversary publication!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN
Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

On November 12, we held our monthly outing for the elders in All Saints Church, and this time we went to Kaohsiung to visit the famous Dragon and Tiger Towers at Lotus Lake (see photo right). We usually have about 10-15 people attending these outings; it is a great opportunity for fellowship and friendship.



about 40-45 people. After the service, everyone was given a 'breakfast box' to take home full of food and snacks, plus a 2013 diocesan calendar for each church family. After the service we also held our elections for

We started our Advent preparations on December 1 by decorating the church. On the afternoons of December 8 and 22 we visited our church families for Advent home services.

On Saturday December 15, we spent 90 minutes in the morning and 90 minutes in the afternoon walking around our neighborhood sharing the good news of Christmas with people in our local community (see photo right).

Each time over 40 people came with us carol-singing.

On December 24, we held our Christmas Eve service at 7:30pm for



our 2013 Church Vestry, making the most of an occasion when most of our church members were gathered together. This is the second year that we have done this, and we have found it most successful.

On December 30, the last Sunday of 2012, during the service we presented gifts to the 4 church members who had fully completed the church Bible-reading activity for 2012. The gift for each one was a Chinese edition of 'Inside Story, the life of John Stott'.

During 2013, our weekly church Bible studies will change from Friday evenings to Thursday evenings.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

News from St. Timothy's Church includes our college and university student group who are meeting each week in Chang-Rong University and studying the book of Ephesians in Bible Study.

On October 17 we held our Seniors Sunday and Thanksgiving Service followed by lunch. Our seniors cell group meets weekly and once a month we go for an outing together (see photos here).

From October 11-13, Kaohsiung held a series of events on 'Sharing of Life' and evangelistic events. Many of our church members went along to participate, and then returned to their cell groups to share



with each other what they had seen and heard. This has helped them in their spiritual lives and outreach activities.

On October 14 and November 21, we took the chance to invite some of the local children who normally do not have much opportunity to get out and about, to invite them to come along to the area around the Art Museum to play games and sports. On November 17, the church youth group held a table tennis friendship activity, all these activities have



helped our young people to relax and enjoy each other's company.

On November 10, we held our church retreat for all our church workers, on the theme of sharing the Gospel, following our calling and our call to mission.

This past Christmas we have been focusing on the message of Jesus coming to earth, God coming among us, and getting to know Jesus and his love. On December 8 we held a parents and children Christmas activity, and on December 15 in Jia-Shian we held a parents and children Christmas outreach tea party. On December 18 and December 21, we held our adults and young professionals Christmas outreach tea party. On December 22 our youth held their Christmas celebrations, watching a paper puppet show, worship and Christmas drama. During December we went to many local homes to

share the good news of Christmas, bringing the blessing of Christ into their homes. On December 24 and 30 we held moving Christmas services with many special Christmas events. Thank God for St. Timothy's Church!



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG
Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師



Halleluia! This was a happy mercy from our dear Lord that we had 9 sisters and brothers receiving confirmation on October 14. Our dear Bishop Lai came on that day to lay his hands on their heads to bless them to have a steady belief in our Lord and commit themselves to our church. Their names are Tsen I-Phey, Chao-Shu-Huey, Chen Chung-Ting, Wu Heng-Ru, Chen Chung-Wing, David C. W.

Lee, Shao Yi-Hwah, Shaoling Show-Lan, Hwang Show-Chin (the front line from left to right, above photo). Each of them got a cross pendant and a Book of Common Prayer as their gifts from Bishop Lai and the church.

A happy and healthy life for a Christian is very important so that they can be an efficient prepared testimony for our dear Lord's resurrection. We have a dear brother,

Liao Ts-Seng (central person of the front line, bottom photo) from Malaysia, who came on November 22 to share and interpret a happy and healthy life for us during our Thursday Bible Study. Eight years ago, when he was 40 years old, he was diagnosed with Lung Cancer but at that time, he didn't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ. He finally alerted that he lived a busy but not healthy life and he had to

change his life. He was healed after his baptism and the hard struggling years while he had to be cured with the difficult processes of chemotherapy. Now he is completely healed by our Lord and lives a joyful and healthy life. He has changed his old and ugly appearance into a young and handsome deportment.



A good Bible story told to a crowd of little children is a sweet achievement for a reverend. November



good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to them (see photo below). They learned that the only and most important role in Christmas is our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Lord who came to the earth to be our Savior for all the people in the world. And whoever believes in him will have everlasting life.

23, Rev. Philip J. L. Ho told the story of Naaman and how he was healed by the mercy of the Lord, brought by the prophet Elisha. Most of the children paid a lot of attention to the story. One of the nice achievements of these children is that all of them can say the Lord's Prayer and the Morning Prayer every Friday morning while they have their "Life Lesson" (see photo above).

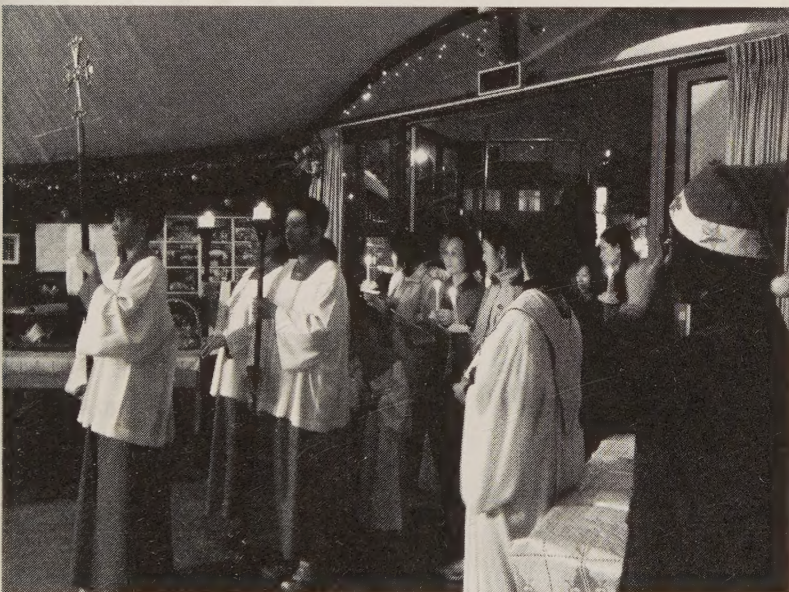
We got a chance to serve in a Junior high school to teach them good and correct attitude and characters with a special "Champion Course" during this past

Oh! Wonderful Christmas tree! A Christmas tree is a symbol of the gift that our dear Lord gives us Jesus Christ, the everlasting mercy and love that never dies like the ever green Christmas tree. We got 28 children and 45 parents to make a Christmas tree themselves on December 1. That was a warm and happy situation. We could explain the



semester. After 10 serious lessons, we hope they could make themselves to be a champion who not only understands how to solve their own problems in their everyday lives but also can act as an efficient victor in their future. On the last day of the course they put their hands up to take an oath to encourage themselves to be a champion in their every coming day (see bottom photo left page).

On December 23, we had a Ginger Bread House making activity for the children of our St. Paul's Kindergarten (see right photo). A total of 98 children and parents came to join that happy Sunday morning. Among them, came 6 parents to attend our Sunday service. We hope to evangelize the parents



December 25, the morning of the Christmas Day, all of the children of our St. Paul's Kindergarten went to bring good news that the Lord Jesus Christ had come to the earth to be the Messiah to save the world by singing "Silent Night", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "It is the rue peace in the Silent Night" along the streets near St. Paul's Church (see photo below).

of the children of this kindergarten by every possible chance such as making Christmas Trees and Ginger Bread Houses.

December 24, the Christmas Eve Service, we had about 124 people to join in our service (see photo above). That included 79 children and parents of our St. Paul's Kindergarten. We were glad that we had more chances to invite more parents to come in our church to know our Savior Jesus Christ and some day they can understand the Lord's Salvation and would like to become a Christian.



TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

臺灣聖公會通訊

馬智才



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